



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

3200 East Highway 34
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3478
Fax: (605) 773-3194

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Winder
(605) 773-3478

State Prison Inmate Dies

(Pierre) - A state prison inmate who was assaulted August 3rd at the South Dakota State Penitentiary has died.

Steven Heckel, age 49, was unresponsive when found in his cell at the Jameson Annex of the Penitentiary at approximately 12:20 PM Saturday. He was transported to McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls after efforts to revive him at the prison failed. He was pronounced dead at 9:25 AM August 4th.

Heckel was serving a six-year sentence for Aggravated Assault out of Brown County.

Heckel's cellmate, Chris Hill, is suspected of assaulting Heckel.

The Division of Criminal Investigation is in charge of the investigation. The Attorney General's Office will determine if charges will be filed.

Hill, age 26, was originally sentenced in 1995 to five years in prison for Aggravated Assault out of Pennington County. He is currently serving a twelve-year sentence for Aggravated Assault, a consecutive four-year sentence for Possession of a Weapon by a Prisoner and two years for Sliming.